

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (HARRIMAN, W. AVERELL), UR US

SUBJ: VE DAY: HARRIMAN DELEGATION, MURMANSK, VETERANS

REF: A. STATE 99169

B. STAT 100047

C. STATE 93819

D. STATE 097625

1. HARRIMAN DELEGATION. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL A WAS CONVEYED TO MFA USA DIVISION APRIL 29. AMBASSADOR TELEPHONED KORNIYENKO APRIL 30 TO REINFORCE EMBASSY'S REQUEST THAT HARRIMAN BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET BREZHNEV. KORNIYENKO HAD BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE REQUEST BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, BUT COULD AS YET GIVE NO RESPONSE.

2. MFA INFORMS US THAT THE DELEGATION WILL BE HOUSED IN A GUEST HOUSE, PROBABLY IN LENIN HILLS. WHILE THERE IS AS YET NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION, MFA ANTICIPATES NO PROBLEM IF DELEGATION MEMBERS WISH TO BRING WIVES. EXPENSES FOR DELEGATION IN THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE ASSUMED BY THE SOVIET SIDE; THIS INCLUDES ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION. A SOVIET OFFICIAL WILL BE DELEGATED TO ACCOMPANY PARTY.

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3. MFA HAS GIVEN US PRACTICAL PROGRAM FOR MAY 8-9

CEREMONIES. ON MAY 8 IN THE MORNING THERE WILL BE A WREATH-LAYING AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER. IN THE AFTERNOON, FROM 1500-1800 THERE WILL BE A MEETING AT THE KREMLIN FOLLOWED BY A CONCERT. ON MAY 9, FROM 1300-1400, THERE WILL BE A MASS DEMONSTRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON RED SQUARE; APPARENTLY THIS WILL BE PRIMARILY GYMANSTICS. AT 1500THERE WILL BE AN OFFICIAL RECEPTION AT THE KREMLIN. ACCORDING TO FEDOSEYEV IN THE USA DISCION, BREZHNEV IS LIKELY TO BE PRESENT AT BOTH THE MAY 8 AND THE MAY 9 KREMLIN MEETINGS.

4. SPEECHES BY THE HEADS OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS ARE NOT CONTEMPLATED, ALTHOUGH FEDOSEYEV NOTED THAT INTER-VIEWS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. MILITARY UNIFORMS MAY BE WORN.

5. WE HAVE NOT RAISED WITH THE SOVIETS THE POSSIBILITY OF A TELEVISION SPEECH BY GOVERNOR HARRIMAN, ALTHOUGH FEDOSEYEV'S REMARKS ABOUT "INTERVIEWS" WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT AT TELEVISION APPEARANCE WOULD BE POSSIBLE. THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAS FORMALLY PROPOSED TO MFA

(PROTOCOL AND SECOND EUROPEAN) A TV APPEARANCE BY MOUNTBATTEN. OUR VIEW IS THAT A TV ADDRESS BY HARRIMAN--OR AT LEAST A TV INTERVIEW--WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT.

6. MURMANSK. WE DISCUSSED WITH PROTOCOL SUGGESTION CONTAINED REF B ON POSSIBLITY OF FRANKEL TRAVELING TO MURMANSK. AND AMBASSADOR ALSO DISCUSSED WITH KORNIYENKO. AFTER SOME BACKING AND FORTHING, PROTOCOL HAS DECIDED IT CAN ARRANGEFOR A REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHT SEAT FOR FRANKEL TO RETURN FROM MUMANSK TO MOSCOW, THOUGH TRAVEL TO MUSMANSK WOULD STILLBE BY RAIL. PROTOCOL ALSO INFORMED US, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIET VETERANS COMMITTEE HAS A COMPLETE PROGRAM WORKED OUT FOR THE VETERANS DELEGATION BASED ON FRANKEL'S PRESENCE IN MOSCOW (WHICH IS NOT WHAT THE VETERANS COMMITTEE TOLD US EARLIER IN THE DAY; SEE BELOW). PROTOCOL THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT WE WAIT UNITL FRANKEL
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IS IN MOSCOW TO MAKE THE DECISION ON WHETHER HE WILL GO TO MURMANSK.

7. THE BRITISH ARE STILL PUSHING FOR A SPECIAL FLIGHT, AND HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER SINCE THEIR LAST REQUEST FOR AN AIRCRAFT, AT NOON ON APRIL 30. IF THEY DO GET A SPECIAL FLIGHT,THEIR DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF THEIR DCM, SUTHERLAND, AND THE NAVAL ATTACHE. IF NOT, THE

NAVAL ATTACHE WILL HEAD THE DELEGATION. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE FINALLY APPROACHED THE CANADIANS TO SUGGEST THAT THEY ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE MURMANSK CEREMONIES.

8. PROTOCOL HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF THE MURMANSK CEREMONIES. THEY CLAIMED THAT THE PROGRAM HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY WORKED OUT, BUT THAT A ROUGH OUTLINE WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) A PUBLIC CEREMONY AT WHICH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY ISPOLKOM WILL MAKE A SPEECH. "THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS" THAT THE U.S. AND U.K. DELEGATIONS WILL ALSO BE EXPECTED TO SPEAK. PROTOCOL WILL LET US KNOW.

(B) UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE. THE INSCRIPTION READS "IN MEMORY OF THE JOINT STRUGGLE OF THE ANTI-HITLERITE COALITION AGAINST FASCISM DURING THE YEARS OF WORLD WARII". THE INSCRIPTION IS IN BOTH RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH. THE MEMORIAL ITSELF IS "TWO HANDS HOLDING A GLOBE" SET INTO A CEMENT BASE.

(C) A "VICTORY PARADE" BY SOVIET SAILORS IS ALSO BEING PLANNED.

9. VETERANS MOSCOW SCHEDULE. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED THE SOVIET COMMITTEE OF WAR VETERANS AS SUGGESTED REF C. COMMITTEE REP (FEODOROV) SAID HE HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO ITINERARY ALREADY SUPPLIED TO US (REF D), AND WAS VAGUE ON WHAT EXACTLY THE "FESTIVITIES AND CEREMONIES" PLANNED FOR MAY 8 AND 9 WOULD ENTAIL. AS NOTED ABOVE, PROTOCOL CLAIMS THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS THE COMPLETE PROGRAM WORKED OUT. THE SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY DECIDED TO TAKE THE VETERANS AND RUN WITH THEM, KEEPING THE EMBASSY IN THE DARK. WE WILL BE MEETING THE GROUP UPON ARRIVAL (REF D), AND WILL ATTEMPT TO

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GET A BETTER IDEA ON THEIR PROGRAM AT THAT TIME.
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